

CIA 'The Goat' for U. S. Blunders in Viet Nam

By WILLIAM McCULLAM

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Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, charged today that the nation's multi-billion-dollar spy apparatus is being made "the goat" for American blundering in South Viet Nam.

"Occasionally the CIA has to be the goat," he said. "It looks like it has to be the goat again."

"Still—it may be better for the CIA to be tarred in the Vietnamese mess than the President of the United States or the Secretary of State."

Mr. Dulles made his statements in a personal interview at his suite in the Mayfair House, Park ave. and 65th st.

Speaking rapidly and bluntly, he also made the following major points in defending the controversial agency he headed from 1953 until his retirement just two years ago at the age of 68:

• Any disputes between the CIA, the State Department and military leaders involved in the war against Communist guerillas in South Viet Nam have

been due to the lack of a clear-cut operational policy in Washington.

• What is needed in Saigon and Washington both is "more cooperation and less backbiting between officials of the U. S. agencies concerned."

• It is "nonsense" to refer to the CIA as a new third force in the government which spends billions in furtherance of its own secret policies and is accountable to no one, as alleged by its foes.

• No operations of a political nature ever have been mounted by the CIA without White House approval and there never has been a case where the agency has failed to go along with White House policy to the best of its ability.

Mr. Dulles, his blue eyes occasionally hinting at a controlled indignation, stabbed his points home with the stem of his pipe.

He referred frequently to his new book, "The

Craft of Intelligence," published this week by Harper & Row, in which the brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles sums up his unique career as an international lawyer, diplomat and, for over eight years, as the nation's espionage chief.

"I will not discuss the situation in South Viet Nam in any detail because I know no more than I read in the papers," he said.

"But I hate to see the CIA accused as a trouble-maker and the morale of its members weakened by such charges as have been reported against Mr. Richardson in Saigon."

(John H. Richardson, CIA chief in South Viet Nam, was recalled to Washington for White House consultations several days ago. News reports declared he twice refused earlier to obey instructions from Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.)

"I doubt that Mr. Richardson refused to carry out orders from Mr. Lodge," Mr. Dulles declared firmly. "I

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EX-CIA CHIEF ALLEN W. DULLES

Journal-American Photo by Vic De Lucia

New York

Journal American

No. 27,414—DAILY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1963

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